

# FS Direct

Direct Communication to Foreign Service Employees and Family Members  
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## Click Your Way to FLO Resources

### FLO Homepage on the Internet

<http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo>

### FLO Homepage on the Intranet

<http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/flo/index.html>

Email FLO – [flo@state.gov](mailto:flo@state.gov)



## EMPLOYMENT

[The Network](#) – Receive DC area job postings via email and find other job search resources on the FLO webpage.

**PIT Buyback Program Guidance and Instructions** on FLO's Internet website: <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/62628.htm>.



## INFORMATION & RESOURCES

**FLO Publications** on the Internet may be found at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/rsrscs/pubs/>



## FS FAMILY MEMBERS

**Job Seekers Network Group** supports the DC area job seeker. Calendar- <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/37848.pdf>



## FS DIRECT SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe, please use the following links:

**Internet:** <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c9156.htm>

**Intranet:** <http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/FLO/FLOSubscription.html>

**Via AAFSW:** Visit the FLO area of the AAFSW web site at <http://www.aafsw.org> and click on FLO newsletters.

**FS Direct** is also available on the FLO Internet web site at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/rsrscs/pubs/c5709.htm>

### Going Global Country Career Guides and Global Key Employer Directory



**Going Global** is a leading provider of country specific career and employment information. The Family Liaison Office is pleased to offer you, the Foreign Service spouse, free access to **Going Global's Country Career Guides** and the **Global Key Employer Directory**. These valuable resources will assist you with your international job search.

**Going Global** has upgraded their content to include an international

job-posting program. Their current collection now includes job listings as a part of the **Global Key Employer Directory**. They have customized the DirectEmployer software to make it more “globally-focused” and added hundreds of new listings from Global 500 companies.

Global opportunities are posted for companies such as: Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, FedEx, Johnson & Johnson, Hewlett-Packard, General Motors, Chevron-Texaco and General Electric, just to name a few. You can search by city, state or country - and specify keywords or industry.

For more on how Going Global can help you find the job you have been looking for, go to FLO' Web site at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/49909.htm>.



### Don't Miss PIT Buyback Deadline

The Office of Retirement is asking family members who are considering applying for PIT Buyback benefits to do so well in advance of the **August 29, 2008 deadline**. Information and guidance may be found on FLO's Website <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/62628.htm>.



# Receive Job Announcements via Email

Family Members may register to receive job announcements and other employment related information sent out via **The Network** by simply sending an email request to [FLOAskEmployment@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskEmployment@state.gov). All you need to do is indicate your status as a family member and your name will be added to receive this information. In addition, The Network offers links to government and private sector job vacancies, as well as other employment resources at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/39711.htm>.

For additional employment related information and updates, visit the FLO Web site at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c1959.htm>.



## Education and Youth

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### AFSA Scholarship Program

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Scholarship Program is open to tax dependents of Foreign Service personnel (active, retired, or deceased). A summary is provided below.

#### Academic and Art Merit Awards

- For FS High School Senior
- Parent must be a member of AAFSW or AFSA
- Competitive, one-time only award
- Winners receive \$1,500
- Students can apply for both the Academic and Art Merit Awards
- Awards made in May
- Awards made annually



#### Financial Aid Scholarships

- For FS College Undergraduates
- No membership requirement
- Need-based and renewable
- Scholarships from \$1,500-\$3,000
- Must take 12 credits/have a 2.0 GPA
- No "U.S. School" requirement
- Scholarships made in August and December
- 55 Scholarships made annually

**Applications will be available November 1, 2006. Submission Deadline is February 6, 2007.**

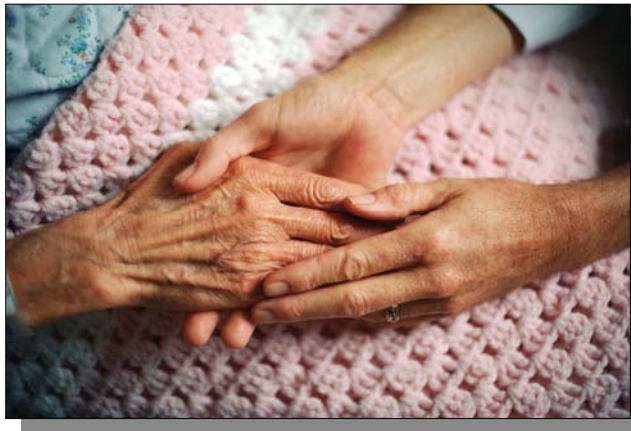
For more information, visit AFSA's Web site at <http://www.afsa.org/scholar/index.cfm>, call 202-944-5504 or 1-800-704-2372 ext. 504, or email [dec@afsa.org](mailto:dec@afsa.org).



## **Support Services**

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### **Taking Care of our Elderly Parents**



Many of us are part of what is increasingly called the “sandwich generation,” caring for both our children and our parents at the same time. However, the Foreign Service way of life often means caring for our parents from a great distance.

If we are lucky, our parents may already have long-term plans in place, but others may avoid the subject entirely. FLO's “[Caring for Elderly Parents](http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/rsrccs/pubs/2048.htm)” at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/rsrccs/pubs/2048.htm> offers your clients a good starting

point for information and resources on eldercare. Topics include:

- Communicating with elderly parents;
- Danger signals to watch for which may require a lifestyle change;
- Various eldercare options;
- Paying for long-term care;
- Resources, including the Department's IQ: Information Quest, the Employee Consultation Service (ECS), Administration on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, private geriatric care managers, and private sector programs;
- Eldercare in the Foreign Service, including putting parents on your orders and taking an elderly relative to post, bringing parents to post who are not on orders, Family Medical Leave Act and Family-Friendly Leave, and Eldercare Emergency Visitation Travel (Eldercare EVT);
- Medical insurance;
- Legal issues; and
- Making life and death decisions.

[IQ:Information Quest](http://www.worklife4you.com/) is an excellent resource for finding, among other things, assisted living and life care communities throughout the U.S. This free resource and referral service is available to Department of State employees and their family members, and to other agencies under a different name (check with your Work/Life office). The toll free number is (800) 222-0364 (or 888-262-7848 for the hearing impaired) and the Web site is <http://www.worklife4you.com/>.

The Department's **Employee Consultation Service** will help with families struggling with the emotional issues related to eldercare decisions, among other issues. ECS is staffed with clinical social workers and all conversations remain confidential. Phone: (202) 663-1456.

Human Resources/Employee Relations (HR/ER) is responsible for the policy related to Emergency Visitation Travel, including **Eldercare Emergency Visitation Travel**. 3 FAM 3749 has a useful chart on Emergency Visitation Travel. Eldercare Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) are available at [http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/prd/hrweb/er/worklife/DependentCare/Eldercare/Eldercare\\_FAQs.html](http://hrweb.hr.state.gov/prd/hrweb/er/worklife/DependentCare/Eldercare/Eldercare_FAQs.html)

You may be thinking about including an elder parent on your orders. Taking an elder parent overseas requires a lot of consideration, not to mention meeting the Department's requirement that the FS Officer must provide at least 51 percent of the parent's support for at least six months before application to be put on orders. ["Caring for Elderly Parents"](#) provides further guidance, including which forms must be completed.

Should you have any questions related to the above material, or any other issues related to eldercare, please contact [FLO's Crisis Management and Support Officer](#) at (202) 647-1076.



## Survey: Have you Experienced an Unaccompanied Tour?

**IMPORTANT FLO SURVEY** - The Family Liaison Office asks all American employees and their adult family members - including spouses, Members of Household, partners/fiancés, adult children, parents, and siblings - who have been, are now, or soon will be experiencing an Unaccompanied Tour (UT) to participate in this important survey. The survey can be accessed by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=282082520872>. The survey will take approximately 10 to 20 minutes to complete and it need not be completed in one sitting. **The deadline for completing the survey has been extended to Monday, October 9, 2006.**





# Training

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## FSI Adds “Rosetta Stone” as a Foreign Languages Distance Learning Resource

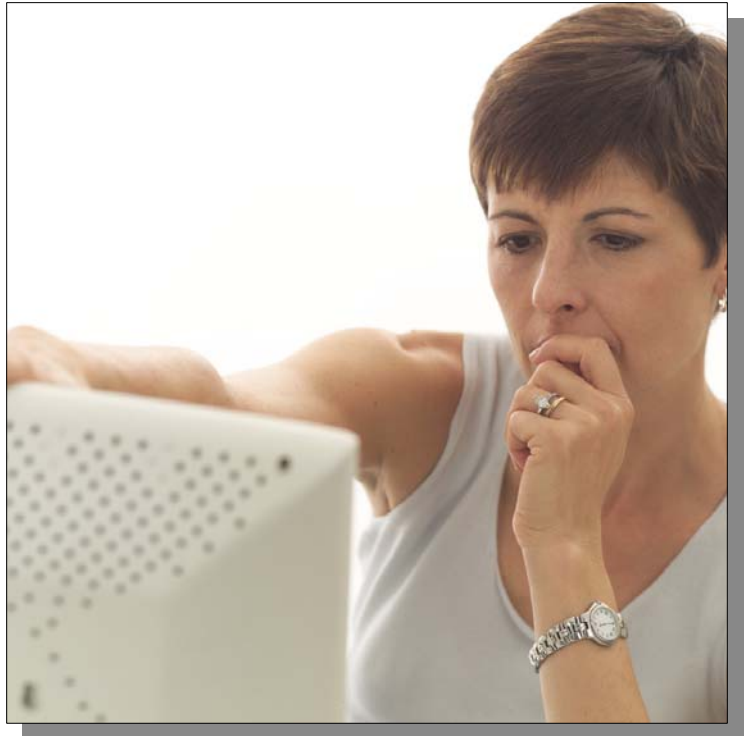
The Foreign Service Institute has added **Rosetta Stone**, a commercial foreign language distance learning resource, which will provide access to 28 foreign language resources.

The licensing agreement allows FSI to provide these resources on their **Internet-Based** Learn Center, making materials available 24/7. Initially, passwords for the program will be made available to Department of State employees and eligible family members serving abroad.

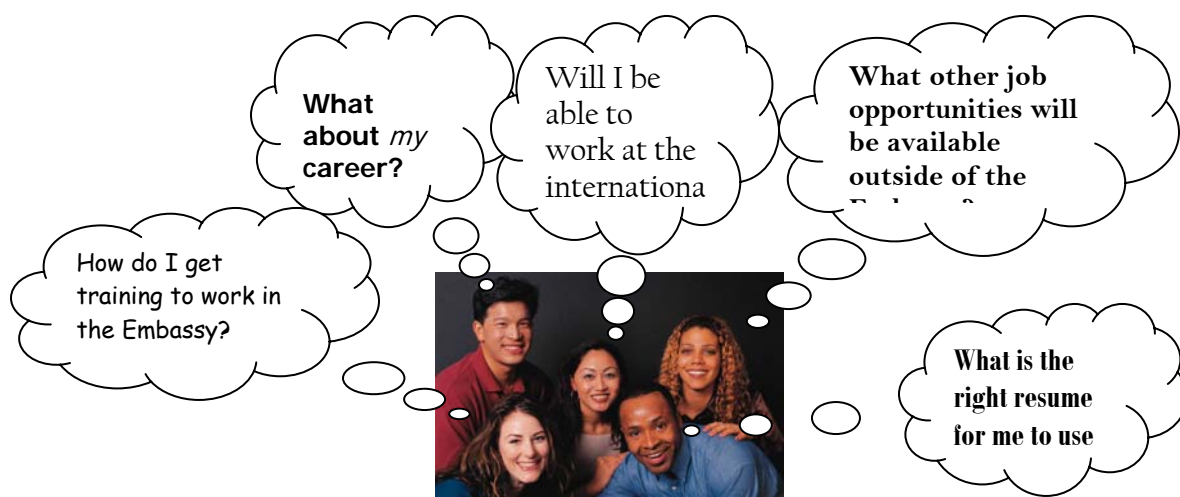
Rosetta Stone resources are not meant to replace formal, mentored language training, instead, serve to supplement curricula. The resources help to build basic language skills and review key vocabulary. Since the Rosetta materials are all self-guided, they will not be officially recorded on personnel records or official transcripts.

Each password will be good for up to 90 days, and depending on the number of interested applicants, we will extend the initial 90 days to individuals who are actively using the materials. FSI reserves the right to terminate without notification passwords of individuals who have not opened the resource materials for 30 days or more. This will enable FSI to reassign access to another interested employee or eligible family member.

To apply for a password to access the Rosetta Stone resources, visit the Intranet at [http://fsi.state.gov/rosetta\\_stone.asp](http://fsi.state.gov/rosetta_stone.asp). Passwords will be awarded on a first-come first served basis. For Department of State eligible family members, the training officer is the spouse's CDO.



# FSI Transition Center Presents: MQ 703



## POST OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

For Foreign Affairs Agency Family Members

Thursday, October 19, 2006  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Attend this course and get the straight answers.

- Open to all foreign affairs agency employees and adult eligible family members (EFMs).
- State Department employees register through their Training Officer/CDO.
- State Department adult EFMs register through the employee's Training Officer/CDO.
- All other USG employees/EFMs submit an SF182. Non-State tuition rate: \$190.
- For further information email [FSITCTraining@state.gov](mailto:FSITCTraining@state.gov).



## Take Note

### Immediate Benefit Plan Open Enrollment Season through November 15

*For State, AID, FCS and FAS U.S. Citizen Employees*

The **American Foreign Service Protective Association (AFSPA)** is once again holding an open enrollment season for the Immediate Benefit Plan from September 15 through November 15. This unique insurance program provides an immediate cash payment of

\$15,000 to the designated beneficiary (ies) of an enrollee who dies, regardless of the cause of death. The payment, which is made generally within two work days of official notification of death, is intended to assist families with the extraordinary expenses incurred in the first weeks following a death and before other benefits can be paid. The cost of insurance is \$2.00 per pay period and payment is made by payroll deduction.

The Immediate Benefit Plan is open to all U.S. citizen employees of the Department of State, USAID, Foreign Commercial Service and Foreign Agricultural Service. , including EFMs serving on Family Member Appointments and locally employed U.S. citizens.

To apply or for more information, employees should visit the AFSPA Internet site at [www.afspa.org](http://www.afspa.org), or contact AFSPA at (202) 833-4910 or the Office of Casualty Assistance at (202) 736-4302 or by e-mail at [oca@state.gov](mailto:oca@state.gov). Additional information is available in STATE 152858.



*The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide*

Presents



# **Book Fair 2006**

**Opens Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M.**  
**Closes Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 P.M.**

***The Book Fair with International Flair!***

**Books      Arts and Collectibles      Stamps**

## **Don't Miss It!**



# Last Call for Nominations: AAFSW/Secretary of State Award and the Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award

Nominations are solicited for:

- **The first annual Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award for Spouses and Members of Household** - 2006 will be the premier award for the Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award, which recognizes a family member (spouses and Members of Household) who has effectively advocated for family member rights and benefits, as did the late Mrs. Eleanor Tragen, a long-time member of AAFSW. The award is funded by the income from a gift to Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR) from her husband, retired FSO Irving Tragen. The recipient will be chosen for his/her efforts to enhance the global rights of and benefits provided to Foreign Service family members, efforts that have demonstrably improved their welfare. Anyone who is a family member of an active or retired Foreign Service Officer is eligible for the award. Nominations may be from either active or retired Foreign Service members, AAFSW and DACOR members, and Community Liaison Office Coordinators. All are urged to nominate freely! Nominees must agree to be present at the awards ceremony if selected. The winner will receive a cash award of \$2000. Travel to Washington will be paid by each winner's bureau, if the recipient is posted abroad. **Tragen nominations must be received by DACOR by October 6, 2006, at Dacor Bacon House Foundation, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006.**
- **AAFSW/Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Activities (SOSA)** – Nominations should cover volunteer activities in one or more of the following categories:
  - Exceptional service to the USG community at post
  - Outstanding activities directed toward the host country
  - Exceptional service in emergencies at post

Posts and individuals may submit as many nominations as they wish. Each nomination should not exceed three printed pages and should include name of nominee and, if family member, name and relationship to direct hire employee and position and agency. Also include the nominator's name, agency and description of association with nominee. The narrative should discuss the actions and qualities that qualify the nominee for the award with specific examples of accomplishments that fulfill the criteria. One winner will be selected from each regional bureau. SOSA winners will be flown to Washington to receive their awards consisting of a certificate signed by the Secretary of State, a pin and a check for \$2,000. SOSA nominations should be sent to the AAFSW Office, 5555 Columbia Pike, Suite 208, Arlington, Virginia 22305-3117 or by email to [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org), or fax to 703-820-5421. For further information or to answer questions call AAFSW at 703-820-5420. **Nominations for the SOSA awards must be received by October 6, 2006**

With this new venue, AAFSW will also present its annual Dorman Award in the ceremony. This award honors someone within AAFSW who has contributed to the organization in the manner of Lesley Dorman. All awards will be presented at a ceremony at the Department of State during the AAFSW holiday Program in the Benjamin Franklin Room on December 5, 2006.

Both AAFSW and the DACOR Foundation are charitable 501c3 organizations and can receive tax-free donations to further their work. Checks can be sent either to AAFSW or DACOR BACON Foundation. Contributions should mention SOSA or Tragen AWARD. Nomination questions can be answered by contacting DACOR, [AAFSW](#) or FLO.

